

**Overlapping Elective Surgical Procedures**

<b>Manual</b>	Medical Staff	<b>Effective Date</b>	03/22/2016
<b>Policy #</b>	MS 132		
<b>Responsible Person</b>	Manager, Medical Staff Services	<b>Next Scheduled Review</b>	3/31/2021

**PURPOSE**

The practice of overlapping surgeries when a surgeon is running more than one operating room concurrently is a significant concern as it relates to patient safety, operative outcomes, informed consent, and appropriate billing.

**DEFINITIONS**

Backup Surgeon

A surgeon credentialed and privileged by the Medical Staff to perform the surgical procedure

Actual Operating Time

The time recorded within the medical record that it takes to perform each surgical procedure beginning at incision and ending with the application of dressings or, in the case of a non-surgical procedure, from the introduction of a scope/instrument until its removal.

Overlapping Surgery

An operation or procedure in which the actual operating time overlaps with the actual operating time of another operation or procedure performed by the same surgeon.

Immediate Availability

A surgeon is considered immediately available if located within the same main campus at which the operation or procedure is occurring (Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center and surrounding buildings) and is able to return to the operating room whenever she/he is responsible for the surgical care of a patient in the operating room. A surgeon can participate in clinical activities that are interruptible and remain immediately available. The surgeon cannot be engaged in another procedure.

**POLICY**

1. If an Overlapping Surgery is anticipated by the surgeon at the time of scheduling, it should be identified as such at that time and a backup surgeon designated.
2. The patient for an Overlapping Surgery will not be brought into the Operating Room until the backup surgeon is identified.
3. The backup surgeon must be immediately available and not participating in another operation during the time of the overlap.

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4. The surgeon must inform the patient of an Overlapping Surgery and the arrangements for backup surgical coverage prior to the surgical procedures and document the conversation in the medical record.
5. The surgeon will attest in the operative report **one** of the following:
  - a. “As the responsible surgeon, I was present for the entire duration of the procedure.”
  - b. “As the responsible surgeon, I was present for the critical portions of the procedure and immediately available during the non-critical portions.
  - c. “As the responsible surgeon, I was present for the critical portions of the procedure: Dr. X was present or immediately available during the non-critical portions.”
6. A surgeon will never be allowed to proceed with three or more overlapping procedures.

**APPROVALS**

Medical Staff Executive Committee: Reviewed with no revisions – 3/26/2019  
Governing Body: Approved with no revisions – 3/31/2019